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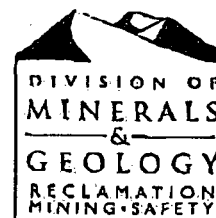
STATE OF COLORADO

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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

TO: NAME: Annette Quill
ORGANIZATION: AGO
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FROM: NAME: Wally Erickson
PROGRAM: MINERALS: ☒ COAL: ☐ IMP: ☐ MINE SAFETY: ☐
DATE: 9/16/99 NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: X 6
TIME TO BE SENT: ASAP: ☒ or NIGHT RATE: ☐

MESSAGE TO RECIPIENT:

Rico Stuff in 3 FAX groups
2nd Group

DURANGO
OFFICE

Atlantic Richfield Company
Rico Cleanup Bulletin No. 2
May 29, 1996

The Rico Cleanup Bulletin is periodically published by Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) to keep Rico residents and property owners, as well as other interested parties, fully informed about its voluntary environmental cleanup activities in the Rico area.

Received

JUN 19 1996

Durango Field Office
Division of Minerals & Geology**Bulletin No. 2 Highlights**

- State of Colorado approves four environmental voluntary cleanup plans.
- Work activity to begin by mid-June.
- Evaluation of soils throughout Rico completed - the Grand View smelter site targeted for cleanup.
- ~~ARCO has~~ Colorado School of Mines to evaluate water discharge problems at St. Louis Tunnel.
- Community meeting scheduled for June 4 at Rico Town Hall
- Background of the Rico Voluntary Cleanup Project

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Background of the Rico Voluntary Cleanup Project

ARCO is working closely with property owners, the Town of Rico and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on a voluntary program to stabilize and clean up a number of mining-related sites in the Rico area.

Like many Western communities, Rico's legacy of a robust mining history is the accumulation of mine wastes that contain concentrations of natural occurring metals. Some of these wastes are found along the waters of Silver Creek and the Dolores River. In other cases, metal-bearing water is being discharged from old mine workings and mill tailings.

Colorado's Voluntary Cleanup Program

In 1994 the Colorado Legislature enacted the *Colorado Voluntary Cleanup and Redevelopment Act*, which encourages parties to voluntarily remediate waste sites. Through its predecessor, Anaconda Minerals Company, ARCO previously had limited involvement in the Rico area and therefore, is participating in Colorado's voluntary program.

The voluntary program can be beneficial for all concerned by resulting in a technically sound, cost-effective cleanup, without the stigma on the community of "Superfund" designation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Consequently, ARCO has been working with individual property owners, the Town of Rico and State of Colorado officials to plan and carry out certain remediation projects within the Rico area.

State of Colorado Approves Four Cleanup Projects

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has approved four remediation projects which were prepared and submitted by ARCO on behalf of the current property owners. Construction bids for the remediation work will be let in early June and work activity is scheduled to be underway about June 15th.

Silver Swan Mine

Located just south of Rico along the west side of the Dolores River, rock waste from the mine is piled adjacent to the main river channel. Remediation plans call for moving the waste piles away from the river channel and stabilizing them to prevent further erosion and infiltration. Water discharging through the waste will be captured and routed to a settling pond in order to reduce discharges into the Dolores River. The most visible aspect of the project will be replacement of bare soils and rock with grass and vegetation cover, as well as the preservation of existing natural wetlands.

Santa Cruz Mine

Located on the west side the Dolores River across from town, the site has mine rock in direct contact with wetlands and beaver ponds, and discharges mine drainage water. Remedial action plans are similar to those of the Silver Swan Mine. Rock material will be pulled back so that they are not in direct contact with surface waters and stabilized in place to prevent future erosion and infiltration. The area will be compacted and covered with soil and vegetation. A settling pond will also be used to reduce discharges into the river.

Columbia Tailings

Located at the south end of Rico just to the west of the gas station, the site contains mill tailings which are separated from the main channel of the Dolores River by the old railroad grade. Water collects on top of the tailings and infiltrates through them, resulting in metal bearing water seeping into the river. Cleanup plans are designed to inhibit this infiltration and create drainage controls which will prevent surface water from running through the tailings. After remediation activities are completed, the existing bare soils will be covered with vegetation and parking area will be created at the reclamation site for cars and recreational vehicles.

Argentine Tailings

Located east of Rico about one mile up Silver Creek, the site has a large tailings impoundment produced by the Rico-Argentine mill. The tailings piles are bare, have steep slopes and like the Columbia Tailings, have surface water running through them. Remedial action plans include recontouring and flattening the slopes, compacting and covering the surface with soil, rock mulch and vegetation, in order to reduce the infiltration of water through the waste piles. Recontouring and revegetation of the site will provide a grassy, "amphitheater" terrain.

Remediation Schedule

Remediation activities will be fully underway this Summer in the Rico area and should be concluded by late October of this year. In order to accomplish this schedule, construction bids will be let in early June and work underway by June 15th.

Following cleanup activities, ARCO will monitor the sites and conduct water quality sampling for a two year period. Thereafter, individual property owners should visually monitor the sites for an additional three years.

Community Soils

ARCO has conducted an evaluation of metals in soil materials throughout the town of Rico in order to determine whether remediation of mine-related wastes is needed.

As a result, ARCO has identified one area - the site of the old Grand View Smelter - which should be remediated through the State's voluntary program. A cleanup application has been prepared for this site and submitted to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

In addition, ARCO has identified several small sites which can be quickly cleaned up without going through the formal process. These include the Atlantic Cable and Van Winkle mine sites, which will be stabilized and preserved as part of Rico's mining heritage.

A copy of the Grand View Smelter application, which includes a comprehensive assessment of community soil data, has been filed at the Rico Town Hall. Additionally, if local property owners would like information about sampling that occurred on their property, they can call the Rico Community Hotline at 1-800-914-4515 to schedule a briefing.

School of Mines to Study St. Louis Tunnel Problems

As reported by the Telluride Daily Planet in its May 3, 1996 edition, the State of Colorado continues to have concerns about mine water which is discharging from the St. Louis Tunnel.

All parties involved in this project are working to find a technical solution to the discharge problem. Specialists from the Colorado School of Mines have been asked to evaluate the situation and determine whether more effective measures can be taken to reduce the impacts of mine water discharges from the St. Louis Tunnel.

Public Meeting Scheduled

A public meeting has been scheduled on the ARCO voluntary cleanup program, which will allow residents and interested parties to learn more about remediation plans and ask questions. A particular focus of the session will be the analysis of community soils.

Community Meeting

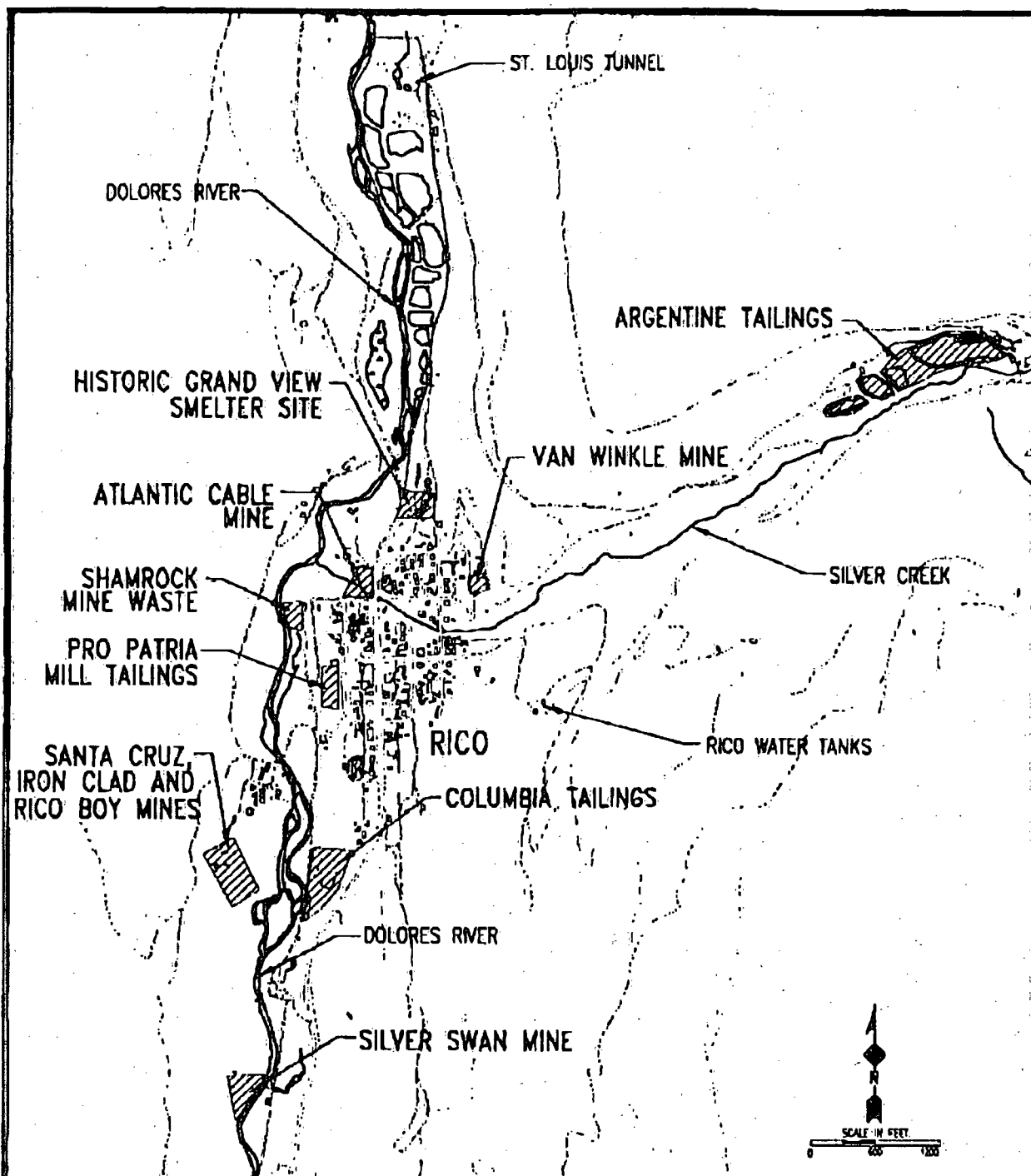
June 4, 1996 - 7:00 pm

Rico Town Hall

Public Information & Comment

ARCO invites the residents of Rico and other interested parties to review and comment on this environmental project. Information available about the project includes an alternatives analysis describing available options, a set of State-approved Voluntary Cleanup Plans and related documents. These records are available during normal business hours at the Rico Town Hall, which is located at 2 North Commercial Street in Rico.

Written and oral comments are invited on the project to supplement previous public hearings and comment sessions. Comments should be directed within 30 days to Cynthia Kezos through the Rico Community Hotline at 1-800-914-4515, or in writing to her at Atlantic Richfield Company, 555 17th Street, 16th Floor, Denver, CO 80202.



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SITES INCLUDED IN VOLUNTARY
CLEAN-UP PROGRAM

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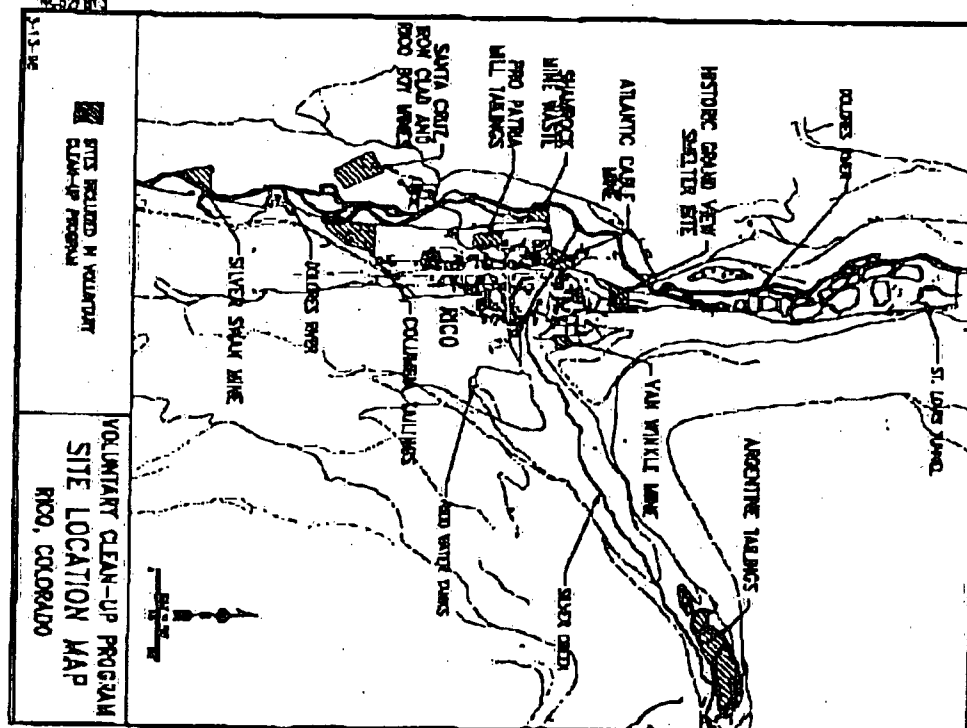
VOLUNTARY CLEAN-UP PROGRAM
SITE LOCATION MAP
RICO, COLORADO

If you have any questions about the voluntary program, please contact ARCO's Project Administrator Cynthia Kezos through the Rico Community Hotline at...
1-800-914-4515.

For More Information

ARCO intends to keep local officials and the public fully informed of its environmental cleanup plans and activities as they move forward. This will include meetings in Rico and the occasional publication of other community bulletins.

In addition, if you have any questions about the voluntary project, please contact ARCO's Project Administrator Cynthia Kezos through the Rico Community Hotline at 1-800-914-4515



Atlantic Richfield Company
Rico Voluntary Project
555 17th Street 16th Floor
Denver, CO 80202

Rico Clean-Up Bulletin #1

February 15, 1996

Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) is working closely with property owners, the Town of Rico and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on a voluntary program to stabilize and clean up a number of mining-related sites in the Rico area.

The Rico Clean-Up Bulletin

This is the first in a series of occasional newsletters about the environmental remediation activities being undertaken by ARCO. The Bulletin represents ARCO's commitment to keep Rico residents fully informed as clean-up activities move forward.

The Mining Nature of Rico

Like many communities, Rico's roots trace back to Colorado's historic mining days when nearby areas provided great mineral wealth. A legacy of the area's robust mining history is the local accumulation of mine wastes that contain concentrations of natural occurring metals.

Some of these wastes are found along the waters of Silver Creek and the Dolores River. In other cases, metal-

bearing water is being discharged from old mine tailings.

As the nature of Rico changes with increased tourism and development, there is increased public interest in cleaning up historic mine wastes. Sites in the Rico area which are likely to have concentrations of metals include waste piles, the old "Rico-Argentine" mine tailings site, as well as a limited number of locations within the incorporated boundaries of Rico.

EPA considering "Superfund" Designation

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has begun a process which might result in the designation of certain historic mining areas in and around Rico as "Superfund" sites. This is a legal and regulatory process whereby the federal government oversees and often manages the remediation process.

EPA's "Superfund" designation is commonly a high-profile process involving lengthy and expensive litigation in an attempt to identify and fine firms which generated mine wastes or otherwise had something to do with historic mining activities.

Colorado's Voluntary Program May Result in Faster ...

In 1994 the Colorado Legislature enacted a law which allows parties to voluntarily clean up waste sites and avoid the more prolonged and expensive "Superfund" process.

The voluntary program can be beneficial

for all concerned by resulting in a technically sound, cost-effective cleanup without the stigma of "Superfund" designation. Communities can avoid the high profile, negative image that often comes with

ARCO Pursuing Voluntary Clean-Up in Rico Area

Although ARCO, through its predecessor, Anaconda Minerals Company, had limited, previous involvement in the Rico area, ARCO may be one of several companies that EPA would turn to in order to fund clean-up activities.

Therefore, ARCO has been working with individual property owners, the Town of Rico and State of Colorado officials under the Colorado Voluntary Cleanup and Redevelopment Act to plan and carry out certain remediation projects within the Rico area. To date, ARCO's activities have

included numerous discussions with property owners, state and local officials; soil testing on many residential properties in Rico; and the development of cleanup plans for several mining related sites that are contained in formal applications under Colorado's Voluntary Act.

In all, ARCO has found nothing alarming or unexpected at the identified waste sites and is confident that those sites can be cleaned up under Colorado's voluntary program, in a manner which will benefit the entire Rico area.

Status of ARCO Project

- Remediation plans have been developed for the Argentine tailings site, Silver Swan Mine, Santa Cruz Mine and Columbia tailings area.

- Formal applications for voluntary clean-up have been filed with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on behalf of the owners of the Santa Cruz Mine, Argentine tailings, Silver Swan Mine and Columbia tailings sites. These applications and cleanup plans are being reviewed by state health officials and revised as needed. Copies of the applications are on file with Eric Heil at the Rico Town Hall.

- Last Fall ARCO initiated a field study of soils throughout the Town of Rico and is now studying the analytical data resulting from that effort. While the report will not be available until this Spring, preliminary results do not indicate any impacts that would be of special concern to Rico residents.

- Some work is being planned directly with the property owners at the Atlantic Cable and Van Winkle mine sites, with the intent of preserving them as part of Rico's mining heritage.

- Pending State and owner approvals, actual cleanup work is expected to begin this Summer.

and More Efficient Environmental Cleanup

"Superfund" designation; impacting property values and a town's reputation. Land owners and previous operators can put resources into actual cleanup activities rather than expensive study

and litigation. Colorado's program also allows the EPA to concentrate on sites with more serious problems that are not being voluntarily cleaned up.